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Michael B. Willis
(signature)
Date of signature - 2/17/05

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Michael Martin) Group Art Unit: 2832
)
Serial No. 10/693,119)
) Examiner: Lincoln D. Donovan
Filed: October 24, 2003)
)
For: APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING)
MAGNETS IN OPPOSING)
RELATIONSHIP, AND SUPPORT)
SURFACE THAT UTILIZES SAME) Attorney Docket 1-37208
)

February 17, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY

Honorable Sir:

Applicant submits this Reply in response to a non-final Examiner's Office action mailed on November 17, 2004, setting a statutory period for response of three months. In the subject Office action, the Examiner withdrew Claims 8 through 20 from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species, and rejected Claims 1 through 7 as being unpatentably obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As this Reply is being mailed on February 17, 2005, pursuant to the Certificate of Mailing provisions of 37 CFR § 1.8, it is timely.

In response to the subject Office action, Applicants herein provide responsive Remarks regarding the rejections to the claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Amendments to the drawings are not presented in this paper.

Amendments to the specification are not presented in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are not presented in this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3.